

conveying articles from the at least one loading station and to an article storage arrangement and said second conveyor being arranged for conveying articles from the article storage arrangement and to the at least one discharge station,

31 an article storage arrangement comprising a plurality of storage units in each of which a plurality of articles may be stored, means for moving articles from the first conveyor and to each of the plurality of storage units, and means for moving articles from each of the plurality of storage units and to the second conveyor, and

control means for controlling the operation of the conveyor system according to the method of claim 46.

Applicants hereby elect Group I consisting of claims 46-70 for initial examination.

This election is with traverse.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 46-90 are currently being prosecuted in the present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the Restriction Requirement in view of the remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

The Examiner has set forth a Restriction Requirement with regard to claims 46-90. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

Group I, claims 46-70, drawn to method for sorting;

Group II, claims 71-86, drawn to apparatus for conveying; and

Group III, claims 87-90, drawn to apparatus for storage.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement, Applicants have elected claims 46-70 for initial examination. However, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the Restriction Requirement since the same special technical feature of method claim 46 is now required by apparatus claims 71-86. Specifically, claim 71 has been amended to depend from claim 46 and therefore incorporate the subject matter of claim 46.

For the above reasons, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider Groups I and II in the present application and to withdraw the Restriction Requirement with regard to these two groups.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement, claims 46-70 have been elected with traverse. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims at a later date if it is so desired.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Paul C. Lewis (Reg. No. 43,368) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

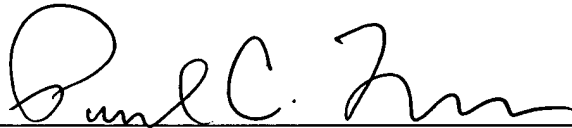
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

Applicants respectfully petition under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and § 1.17 for a one-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of **\$110.00** is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

For Joe McKinney Muncy, #32,334

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KM/PCL/cl
0459-0527P

Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

The claim has been amended as follows:

72. A system for conveying items comprising
at least one loading station for loading items onto trays,
at least one discharge station for discharging items from the trays,
a first conveyor and a second conveyor for conveying articles, each article
comprising a tray carrying at least one item, said first conveyor being arranged for
conveying articles from the at least one loading station and to an article storage
arrangement and said second conveyor being arranged for conveying articles from
the article storage arrangement and to the at least one discharge station,
an article storage arrangement comprising a plurality of storage units in each
of which a plurality of articles may be stored, means for moving articles from the first
conveyor and to each of the plurality of storage units, and means for moving articles
from each of the plurality of storage units and to the second conveyor, and
control means for controlling the operation of the conveyor system according
to the method of claim 46.

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